LOK SABHA

Friday, November 22, 1996/Agrahayana 1, 1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 41 - Prof. P.J. Kurien.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Question No. 41.

(Interruptions)

11.01 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Mohan Rawale and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

(Interruptions)

11.04 hrs.

At this stage, Shri B.L. Shankar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not adjourning the House. It is a shame for the nation. You should be ashamed. It is a shameful thing for Parliament. If the Members of Parliament behave like this, it is a shameful thing.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, You cannot speak. Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet at 3.30 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Declining of Industrial and Export Growth Rates

*41. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of industrial and export growth has shown a decline during April-July, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring the growth rate at par with the previous rate;

(d) whether employment in the organised industrial sector has also shown a comparable decline in the current year; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). As per Index of Indusrial Production the overall industrial production in April-July, 1996-97 has recorded a growth of 9.3%. It is lower than growth rate of 12.3% recorded in the corresponding period of last year. However, the growth rate in the manufacturing sector accounting for a weight of 77.1% in the Index of Industrial Production is 11.7% which is only marginally lower than the growth of 11.9% recorded in the previous year. The declaration in industrial growth is confined to a few sectors particularly, the crude petroleum, fertilizers and power generation etc.

Sector specific strategies have been initiated to remove constraints in underperforming sectors. Adequate credit with softened interest rates assured to industries through the recently announced busy season credit policy are providing further impetus to growth.

The overall export growth in US $ terms has declined from 29.6% in April-July 1995-96 to 11.8% in April-July 1996-97. The Ministry of Commerce has identified the constraints and already initiated appropriate action.

(d) There is no evidence to suggest that employment in the organised industrial sector has shown any comparable decline in the current year.

(e) Does not arise.

Research on Rubber Plants

*42. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether research made by the Rubber Board has succeeded in developing high yielding rubber plants which can help further increase of productivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more funds are planned to be spent on research;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total amount spent during each of the last three years;

(e) whether the demand to implement flexible comlimenting scheme for scientists of Rubber Board and other Commodity Boards has been pending for a long time; and

(f) if so, the action taken to implement the scheme without delay?

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* Not Recorded.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The clone RRII 105 developed by Rubber Board yields on the average, 300 to 500 kg more per ha/year as compared to any other high yielding clone available. Another clone with a yield potential of 20% more than that of RRII 105 is being developed by RRII. This has already been introduced in some fields as an experimental clone.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. RRII is planning to strengthen the research stations in West Bengal, Orissa, M.P., Maharashtra and Kannur in Kerala, research in Biotechnology and tissue culture during the 9th Five Year Plan. An increased outlay has been proposed for research during this Plan.

Annual expenditure incurred on research during the last three years has been as under :-

1993-94	:	Rs. 606.04 Lakhs
1994-95	:	Rs. 501.79 Lakhs
1995-96	:	Rs. 662.01 Lakhs

(e) and (f). The existing Flexible Complementing Scheme being operated by the Deptt. of Science and Technology for scientists of ICAR/CSIR is under review by the Fifth Central Pay Commission. The proposal for extension of FCS to the scientists of Commodity Boards will be considered only after the report of the Pay Commission is received.

Export Growth

*43. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the performance of export growth in most of the sectors has been satisfactory during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the names of those sectors which showed negative growth rate during the current year in comparison to the last two years;

(c) whether the Government propose to moot diversification of export basket in the wake of decline in export growth rate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial action the Government have taken to revive the Indian exports to its desired level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). According to aggregate level trade data from DGCI & S India's exports during April-September, 1996-97 stood at US $ 16.14 billion representing a growth of 9.9% over the level of US $ 14.68 billion achieved during April-September, 1995-96.

As per the April-August, 1996 data (available for sectoral performance) the sectors which have shown negative growth are Leather and manufactures, Gems and Jewellery, Handicrafts and Carpets. The data in respect of these sectors as is required in part (b) of the question is given in the enclosed statement. Reasons for slow growth in exports/negative growth could be ascribed to factors such as relatively less buoyant international market conditions, infrastructural bottlenecks, high cost of export credit etc.

(c) and (d). Under the Exim Policy framework all items can be freely exported except some specified items borne on the negative list of exports.

(e) Export promotion is a continuous activity; the measures taken for export promotion include simplification of export and import policy and procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness and de-bottlenecking of export infrastructure, inter action with Exporting Community to identify and address exporters' problems, promoting joint ventures and bilateral trade with other countries.

STATEMENT

US $ Million
(% change)

Commodities	1994-95	1995-96	April-August 1995-96	April-August 1996-97
Leather manufactures	1610.63	1722.75	722.44	649.61
	(23.9)	(7.0)		(-10.1)
Gems & Jewellery	4500.37	5275.44	1974.70	1830.16
	(12.6)	(17.2)		(-7.3)
Handicrafts	386.32	431.44	198.61	193.63
	(21.3)	(11.7)		(-2.5)
Carpets	559.96	558.19	240.97	227.77
	(-1.5)	(-0.3)		(-5.5)

Figures in bracket represents the growth rate.